

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on Jan 26, 2007
SGW Campus H 769 10:00 am

PRESENT: Mr. Keith Pruden, Chair, Ms. Beverley-Ann Morris, Secretary, Ms. A. Arrizza, Mr. J. Brisebois, Ms. D. Caputo, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Ms. M. Drew, Mr. A. Ferrero, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms. I. Lacelle, Mr. O. Moran, Mr. M. Small, Ms. L. Stanbra, Mr. N. Stewart, Ms. L. Toscano, Mr. M. Venema, Ms. R. Wangechi, Ms. R. R. Zhu

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. J. De Cubellis, Dr. M. Mulrennan, Ms. A. Novoa,

ABSENT: Mr. N. Bleser, Ms. C. Boujaklian, Ms. B. St- Laurent, Ms. L. Lipscombe, Mr. R. Schieir

DELEGATE: Ms. L. Mahabir

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following two items were added to the agenda:

Item 4.3 Report on the Budget and Funding Subcommittee as requested by Ms. Drew.

Item 5.2 Report on the Healthy Campus Initiated as requested by Mr. Moran.

A motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Mr. Ferrero and seconded by Ms. Lacelle.

The motion was carried unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Council back and wished everyone a happy new year.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF November 24th, 2006

A motion to approve the minutes of November 24th was made by Dr. Shaver and seconded by Mr. Small.

The motion was carried unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Housing and Job Bank

Ms. Novoa sent her regrets that she was unable to attend due to another meeting. Mr. Small spoke on her behalf and asked how funding is arranged for the Housing and Job Bank (HOJO) and when would be the next meeting of the HOJO committee. The Chair explained that the procedure for requesting funding is for the HOJO to present a financial report of their activities from the fall semester to CCSL. He stated that if the CSU could present a report at the next meeting, a subcommittee meeting could be scheduled shortly thereafter.

4.2 Concordia International Students Association (CISA) –Update

Ms. Zhu circulated a document to Council and she explained that CISA's budget has not been increased since 2002, while the number of International Students enrolled at the University did increase over the same time period. According to Ms. Zhu's calculations, the percentage of International Students enrolled in 2002 was 8.5%, and that number has increased to 11.4% in 2005. She estimates that between 2002 and 2005 the percentage of non-International Students enrolled at the university increased by 7.05%, compared to a 43% increase of International Students. Ms. Zhu felt that in light of these statistics CISA's budget should be increased. She further circulated a copy of CISA's activity schedule, which reflects how much the student association does with its students. Ms. Zhu felt that CISA would be able to host more activities with increased funding. Ms. Lacelle stated that the ISO is dedicated to working with CISA with helping students integrate into life at the University. She stated that perhaps CISA could think about increasing the cost of certain activities as a means of generating funding.

Mr. Small asked whether CCSL would play a role in funding for CISA and if so what would the procedure be. The Chair advised that CCSL does not have a budget, and stated that although there is money allocated to special projects, CISA would not meet the criteria for special projects funding given that most of CISA's events do not take place on campus. The Chair also mentioned that CISA currently has a fixed budget however, the allocation of funding from the special projects fund is not a fixed amount and is dependent upon the type of project proposed. As such, CISA would not be able to receive a fixed budget from special projects funding. The Chair further stated that in the past, Council felt it more appropriate for CCSL to not have that type of financial relationship with student groups, as CCSL aims to foster autonomous student associations. Council was advised that CISA's annual budget currently approximates \$ 10, 500 and although CISA is a recognized student association under the Dean of Students Office, the association is in a unique situation as their budget comes from the ISO. Dr. Shaver asked if there was information on how CISA's budget is calculated, suggesting that if the budget were based on the number of students enrolled then there would be a clear argument to the University for increased funding. Mr. Côté stated that the budget for CISA is based on a historical calculation. He clarified that the funds being used for activities by CISA is money allocated through Advocacy and Support Services' budget, specifically to the ISO who work in collaboration with CISA, where the ISO is responsible for the administration of the funding. As such there are no funds being transferred directly to CISA. He advised Council that there have been discussions as to what the revenue base for the International Student Program should be. There have been

past discussions with other student associations on the same topic and the other groups questioned the idea maintaining full autonomy. In fact, while discussing the current three-year budget, questions arose as to whether there should be partnerships to fund such important initiatives as CISA. Mr. Côté added that there is recognition of the importance of the work being by CISA. He felt that Council could commit to reviewing ways of creating partnerships for funding the group and he asked whether the CSU would participate in possible partnerships to fund CISA. Mr. Small and Mr. Ferrero both felt it would be more appropriate to delay the discussion until Ms. Novoa is present. However, Mr. Small stated that CISA is regarded as a separate association and seen more as a service offered by the University. Mr. Venema stated that there is interest on the part of GSA to assist CISA and he asked if there are graduate students involved in CISA. Ms. Zhu responded that indeed CISA is not funded by the CSU's fee levy because its membership includes both graduate and undergraduate students. Ms. Wanghchi remarked that the office of Alumni recognizes CISA's importance and appreciated their attendance at alumni events. Council agreed that CISA provides an important service and that additional funding for the association should be sought beyond CCSL. The Chair agreed to set up a focus group to discuss the issue of funding for CISA.

4.3 Budget and Funding Subcommittee

Ms. Drew informed Council that the Budget and Funding subcommittee has tried unsuccessfully to schedule a meeting. She suggested that committee members present meet after CCSL to finalize a date. Council agreed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Ms. Sheahan informed Council that the EV fitness center is open for business with 1519 students enrolled in memberships. In addition, 1375 students have enrolled in instructional programs and she is very pleased and excited by this fact. She further expressed that the center is a work in progress and there will be fine tunings occurring over the next weeks and she thanked Council for their patience. She informed Council that at the moment, 60% of the current part time staff are students working over 350 hours per week, making the center part of the student life economy. The remaining staff is mostly Concordia graduates who are now reconsidering returning to studies an unexpected bonus. She advised Council that there are some refinements to be done over the next 4-5 weeks and that as much as possible the work will be scheduled around the center's hours of operation to ensure that service remains uninterrupted. She also informed Council that there is a new feature, for which she thanks the department of Security, as they have now been able to modify the hours of operation of the metro level entrance to the center on weekends and evenings to better accommodate members of the fitness center. She further advised Council that the Bookstore is also assisting in providing an onsite store for clients of the center. The Bookstore will provide a "just in time" service for fitness members and Ms. Sheahan thanked Ms. Lipscombe for the service. Furthermore, there is some space in fitness center earmarked for a wellness center approach, and in collaboration with student services, Ms. Sheahan will look at having athletic therapists available at various times. She added that perhaps Health

Services could provide a nutritionist in the center, which would also serve to cross promote Student Services in the University. Ms. Sheahan mentioned that there are lots of requests for service and the department will have to choose activities so that they remain responsive to student needs. She also informed Council that there is a technical element of program development whereby each piece of cardio equipment will have a key reader feature, which allows members to track their workouts/performance. Ms. Sheahan thanked Mr. Marvin Cooper, Mr. Vlad Pavlicik, Ms. Micheline Delany and Mr. Alberto Varrerea, for their efforts towards the new center.

Ms. Toscano remarked that staff is enjoying the fitness center and congratulated Ms. Sheahan. Mr. Stewart also expressed thanks for the tour of the fitness center and asked what was the desired number of registered members; the maximum capacity for the fitness center; and the number of memberships necessary to cover the cost of running the center. Ms. Sheahan replied that the maximum capacity of the center is defined by how many people are in it at the same time. The original estimate was 4,500, however, when looking at the level of activity of the past two weeks, there could, in theory be between five and seven thousand members. In order to cover the cost of running the center there would need to be 3,500 members per semester. Ms. Sheahan also stated that the facility would not be open to the public until they are satisfied that they can meet the needs of the university community. Ms. Sheahan indicated that she would like to advise Council on the numbers every month. Mr. Côté thanked Ms. Sheahan stating that it is a proud moment for CCSL as discussions for the center began several years ago at CCSL. The end product of the center demonstrates CCSL's role in supporting student success and speaks to the possibility of future endeavors.

Mr. Moran stated that he is hopeful that the Healthy Campus Initiative will move forward in the same way as the fitness center evolved from an idea several years ago. He reminded Council that the webpage for the Initiative is up and it will be an active website. He encouraged Council to peruse the site and advise him of programs to be added. He stated that the next goal is to meet and add new programs to the Initiative and he expects that at the meeting they will discuss how to advertise the Initiative to students.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

The Chair advised Council that there used to be a Walksafe Program administered through the Dean of Students Office that is no longer operational. Walksafe was a non-interventionist service available to the University community whereby members could request to be escorted on University grounds by a Walksafe patrol person. Since the program has been out of operation, there is a residual amount of money (\$93,000), for the program, that is being held in trust at the Dean of Students Office. The Chair advised Council that the money was set aside by CCSL in the hopes of a resurgence of the program and so it would be up to Council to suggest areas for using the funds. He suggested Council discuss the issue at the next meeting. Following some discussion, it was established that the program was no longer operational due to fewer requests for escorts round campus and that the money did not necessarily have to go towards funding a similar type program. It was suggested that part of the funds could go to improving

security measures such as security cameras and increased lighting on pathways at Loyola and/or towards the training of volunteers for evacuation and safety procedures. Dr. Graub stated that Walksafe was undertaken with the Loyola campus in mind and she asked whether it was a certainty that the program is no longer necessary. She also felt the students needed to be involved discussing how the money should be spent. The Chair replied that the program has been inactive for six years without any requests for it to be reinstated. The program was administered through the Dean of Students Office and there was therefore no affiliation with the CSU and, although the program operated out of the Loyola office, most of the calls were for the SGW campus. He added that if there were an interest in reinstating the program Council would discuss it. The Chair suggested that Council bring forward ideas for using the funds at the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Venema advised Council that, regrettably, the GSA has been put under trusteeship. He asked Council to encourage graduate students to get involved with the GSA. Dr. Shaver asked for clarification on the GSA being in trusteeship as she would like to bring information back to her department. The Chair informed Council that he was asked to place the GSA under trusteeship as they are experiencing problems working together. The trusteeship ensures that the GSA provides the basic services for which they are mandated and that their finances are in order. There are members of the GSA council and executive that are on opposite sides of issues. Mr. Venema informed Council that every graduate student is automatically part of GSA because of fee levies. His plea is to have graduate students become more involved in student government as he feels there is an apathetic attitude towards involvement. Dr. Shaver agreed to take the message back to graduate students in her department.

Council discussed use of the space on the ground floor of the EV building for displaying artwork. Mr. Venema felt that there should be a way for students to access the space. Ms. Arrizza stated that there is high demand for space to display artwork. Last year students were successful in using some space on the Mezzanine in the Hall building. Council asked which University body they could bring this issue to. The Chair informed Council that the issue of the EV space is controversial as it is a question of jurisdiction between the faculties. There are currently discussions between the faculties, however the issues are not close to being resolved.

Mr. Small informed council that the CSU is currently having discussions about fee levy reforms and he asked whether the Dean of Students office had jurisdiction over the finances of other groups. The Chair replied that financial transparency is important to the University and his office has jurisdiction over some groups. He suggested that perhaps the CSU might benefit from bringing a document to Council for ideas.

The Chair informed Council that the deadline for Special Projects for the Winter term is February 16th, 2007. He also invited Council to think about and inform others on the CCSL awards. He clarified that the awards are a non-monetary recognition for students, faculty, and staff who have made an outstanding contribution to student life.

Mr. Côté reminded Council that the university wide open house will be held on January 27th and he extended an invitation to Council.

Ms. Wanghchi informed Council that the Alumni Awards were approaching. She encouraged Council to visit the Alumni website and nominate a person.

Mr. Stewart advised Council that the ASFA accreditation drive begins Monday February 15th. He thanked David Baker at the Dean of Students office for his assistance with the preparation for the drive.

8. NEXT MEETING

March 2nd, 2007, 10:00 am in Room H – 769.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms. Sheahan and seconded by Mr. Ferrero.

The motion was carried unanimously.